Export of Marine Products

4096. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Goverment have taken any measures to enahance the export of marine products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a clear-cut policy on charter operations, leasing and joint ventures as the vast continetal shelf on the West coast is totally unexploited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : (a) and (b) The Government has identified marine sector as one of the thrust areas for boosting the country's export earning. To achieve this objective, Government is through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) encouraging the development of aquaculture to augment the export production through natural resources and has also announced a new Deep Sea Fishing Policy which aims at tapping the vast sea resources hither-to unexploited.

To promote aquaculture, various subsidy schemes have been announced by the Government. These include subsidy assistance for new farm development, for establishment of prawn hatcheries, for purchase of seed and feed to step up production from traditional farms.

To encourage diversified fishing a subsidy assistance is given for modifying the existing trawlers for diversified fishing and installation of blast freezer on board.

Government is also making available High Speed Diesel Oil at international prices to deep sea fishing vessels which export 25% of F. O. B. value of the catch from each vessel provided the owner of the vessel is a registered exporter under the MPEDA Act.

(c) and (d) The Charter Policy for foreign vessels is framed under the provisions of Maritime Zone of India (Regulation of fishing foreign vessels) Act, 1981 and rules framed thereunder. Government is periodically reviewing this policy to suit the development of deep sea fishing sector.

The Government has recently announced a new Deep Sea Fishing Policy to tap the vast unexploited resources in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) The policy also envisages long-leasing of foreign vessels, acquisition of vessels and joint ventures in deep sea sector.

[Translation]

Assistance to Carpet Industry in Bhadohi

4097. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual turnover of the carpet industry in Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have sanctioned some machines meant to bring shining effect on carpets to the carpet industry in Bhadohi;

(c) if so, when these machines are likely to be provided there;